IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims is as follows:

1.**(Previously Presented)** An endcap for use on an actuator arm carrying a single head gimbal assembly that includes a load beam, wherein the endcap is connected to an end of the actuator arm to provide balancing, the endcap comprising:

a body of the endcap connected to the actuator arm at a side of the actuator arm facing away from the load beam; and

a shielding feature extending from the body in a cantilevered configuration for reducing windage excitation of the head gimbal assembly.

2.**(Canceled)**

3.**(Previously Presented)** The endcap of claim 1, wherein the shielding feature includes a balancing portion and a shielding portion.

4.**(Previously Presented)** The endcap of claim 3 wherein the shielding feature is not connected to the actuator arm.

5.**(Previously Presented)** The endcap of claim 3 wherein the balancing portion is shaped so the endcap is symmetric with respect to the shielding portion and the balancing portion.

6.**(Original)** The endcap of claim 1, wherein the shielding feature is structured to divert an airflow proximate to a portion of the head gimbal assembly that experiences windage excitation.

7.**(Previously Presented)** The endcap of claim 6 wherein the shielding feature is structured to divert airflow away from a windward side of the head gimbal assembly.

8.(**Original**) The endcap of claim 1 wherein the head gimbal assembly further comprises a load beam, a gimbal, a transducing head, and a flexible interconnect circuit, and wherein the shielding feature is structured to divert an airflow proximate to a critical portion of the flexible interconnect circuit.

9.(**Previously Presented**) The endcap of claim 1 disposed in relation to an X, Y and Z coordinate system, wherein an airflow in a substantially Z direction causes excitation of the head gimbal assembly, the shielding feature having a shape defined in a substantially X-Y plane for controlling the airflow, wherein the substantially X-Y plane is defined substantially parallel to the actuator arm.

10.(**Previously Presented**) The endcap of claim 1 disposed in relation to an X, Y and Z coordinate system, wherein an airflow in a substantially Y direction causes excitation of the head gimbal assembly, the shielding feature having a shape defined in a substantially X-Z plane for controlling the airflow, wherein the substantially X-Z plane is defined substantially parallel to an axis of rotation of the actuator arm.

11.(**Previously Presented**) A head actuation system comprising:

an actuator arm;

a head gimbal assembly for carrying a transducing head, the head gimbal assembly having a load beam connected to a first side of the actuator arm; and

a shield having a first portion attached to the actuator arm and a second cantilevered portion for reducing airflow excitation of the head gimbal assembly, wherein the shield is attached to a second side of the actuator arm that is opposite the first side of the actuator arm.

12.**(Previously Presented)** The head actuation system of claim 11, wherein the shield is attached to a first end of the load beam, and wherein the head gimbal assembly comprises:

a flexible interconnect circuit adjacent to the load beam and electrically connected to the transducing head;

a gimbal attached to a second end of the load beam; and

a slider supported by the gimbal, the slider disposed to support the transducing head.

13.**(Previously Presented)** The head actuation system of claim 11 wherein the shield is an endcap wherein the first portion of the shield is a body of the endcap and wherein the second portion of the shield is a symmetrical protrusion from the body of the endcap.

14.**(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 13 wherein the protrusion is T-shaped.

15.**(Previously Presented)** The head actuation system of claim 11 wherein the shield is an endcap connected to an end of the actuator arm to provide balancing, the endcap having a body and a plurality of protrusions from the body.

16.**(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 15 wherein the endcap is symmetrical with respect to an axis extending along a center length of the load beam.

17.**(Original)** The head actuation system of claim 16 wherein the protrusions form substantially a "C" shape.

18.**(Previously Presented)** The head actuation system of claim 17 wherein at least one of the plurality of protrusions has a first portion and a distal portion, the first portion defines a plane, and the distal portion defines another plane.

19.**(Previously Presented)** A shielded head actuation system comprising:

a rotatable actuator arm;

a head gimbal assembly attached to a first side of the actuator arm;

a rotatable magnetic disc, wherein the first side of the actuator arm is arranged to face the rotatable magnetic disc; and

an endcap comprising a body attached to the actuator arm and a symmetrically balanced shape feature, wherein the body of the endcap is attached to a second side of the actuator arm opposite the head gimbal assembly such that the shape feature is positioned adjacent to a top face of the head gimbal assembly in a cantilevered configuration to reduce airflow excitation of the head gimbal assembly, and wherein the endcap provides balancing to the actuator arm.

20. **(Original)** The shielded head actuation system of claim 19 wherein the symmetrically balanced shape feature is disposed proximate to an excitable portion of the head gimbal assembly to control excitation of the head gimbal assembly caused by airflow generated by rotating the magnetic disc.

21.**(Previously Presented)** The endcap of claim 1, wherein a portion of the head gimbal assembly defines a first plane and the shielding feature of the endcap defines a second plane that is arranged substantially parallel to and spaced from the first plane.